



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to you today regarding the Bytyqi family and request you to uphold your promise to bring justice for them.¹ Additionally, we respectfully ask that your administration bring justice to all victims of the war crimes committed during the Kosovo War.

As you know, the Bytyqi brothers were New York residents who left the United States in April 1999 to join Kosovo's fight for independence in their ancestral homeland. They were arrested on June 23, 1999 after accidentally crossing into Serbian territory. The brothers were then taken by a special operations unit of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs to a training facility near Petrovo Selo, Serbia, where all three were brutally executed.

Sorrowfully, the bodies of 21-year-old Mehmet, 23-year-old Agron, and 25-year-old Ylli Bytyqi were found in 2001 in a mass grave in eastern Serbia. Their bodies were recovered with their hands bound and gunshot wounds to the back of their heads. No individual has ever been found guilty of the murders. To date, Serbian political leaders have repeatedly failed to deliver on the promises they made to U.S. officials, and no serious investigation has occurred. In March 2020, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings, Agnes Callamard, confirmed that Serbia is obliged under international humanitarian law to investigate current or former officials over the killing of the Bytyqi brothers, including those within the supervisory chain of command.²

We stand in solidarity with this family, who have lived more than two decades without justice. We urge you to fulfill your pledge to seek answers from President Vučić, and request a full investigation of this case, including those within the chain of command. Finally, after more than two decades, their family should be given the closure they deserve. Although resolving this case

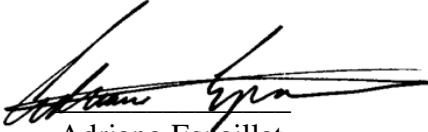
¹ Carpenter, Michael. [@mikercarpenter] “@JoeBiden 's vision for U.S. relations with Albania and Kosovo.” *Twitter*, 19 Oct 2020, <https://twitter.com/mikercarpenter/status/1318330067026673666?lang=ca>

² Callamard, Agnes. “Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.” Received by His Excellency Mr. Walter Stevens, et al., PALAIS DES NATIONS, 23 July 2019, Geneva, Switzerland.

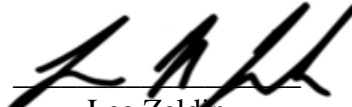
will never be able to return all that has been taken from them—the lives of their beloved brothers—it will provide them with some semblance of justice.

We recently met with human rights activist and brother of the Bytyqi's, Ilir Bytyqi and Kosovo War sex crime survivor and activist, Vafije Krasniqi Goodman, and are proud to join them in their fight. They cannot rest until justice is served, and the perpetrators of this crime are held accountable by the Government of Serbia and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The Bytyqi family has endured immense pain, and their lives will never be the same. We ask the Biden Administration to work with the Department of State and see that justice is delivered for this family and all survivors of war crimes, including rape and other forms of sexual violence. As a global leader, we ask you to pursue humanitarian justice and advocate for the lives of these American citizens who were the victims of international crimes.

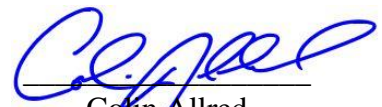
Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/

Marc Veasy
Member of Congress

/s/

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress